Renzokusei Scans

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Strike the Blood
Chapter 7 - Infiltration

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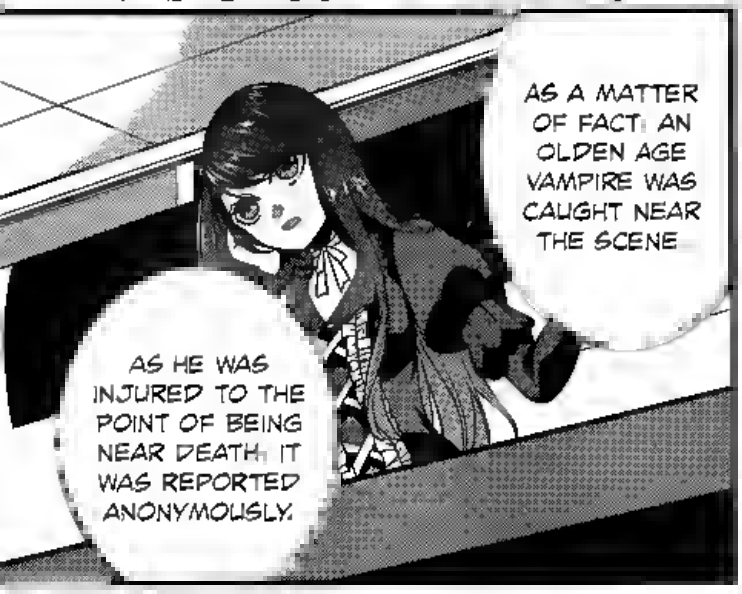
CHAPTER 7:
INFILTRATION
THE WOMAN FLUTTERS WITH BEAUTIFUL GRACE...
待望のコミックス第1巻、NOW ON SALE――!!
ストライク・ザ・ブラッド
STRIKE THE BLOOD
The fourth originator is immortal and imperishable. It is a cruel vampire which deviates from the way of the world. However, it is not unfortunate that monsters exist in this town, even it is one of the world's most powerful vampires.
原作／三雲岳斗 作画／TATE キャラクターデザイン／マニャ子

WHAT IS NATSUKI'S REASON FOR CALLING OUT KOJOU AND YUKINA...?

SIGN: STUDENT COUNSELING OFFICE

これまでのあらすじ

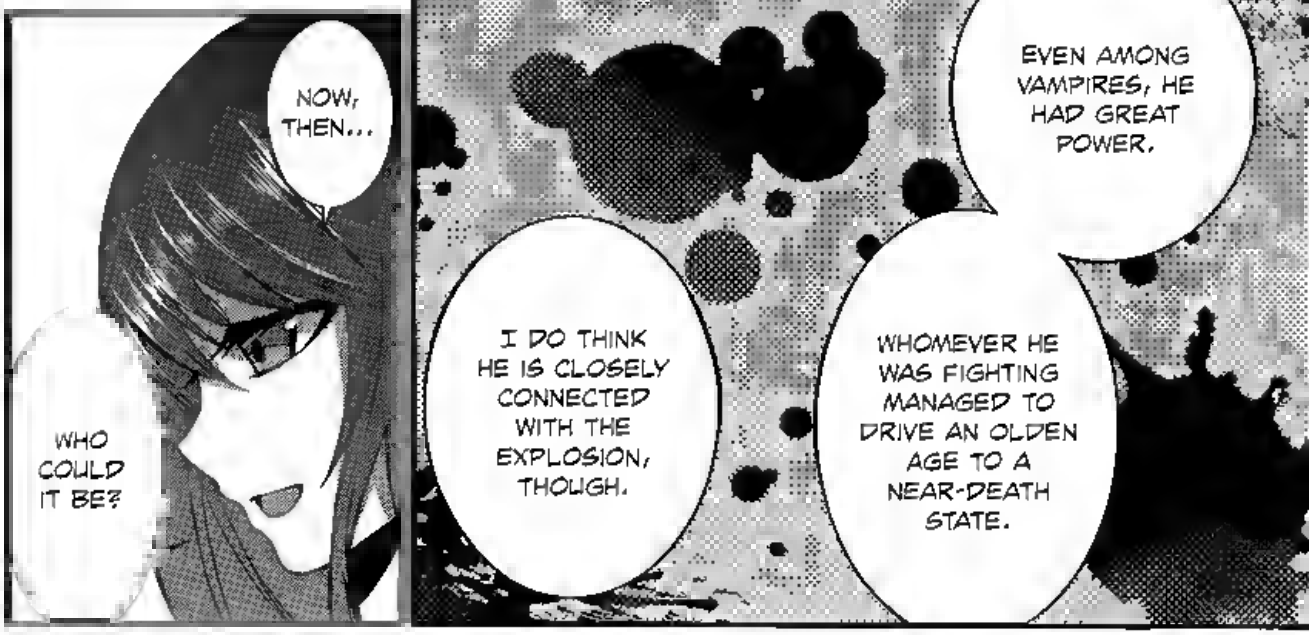
突如、発生した大火災の現場で、顧教師・オイスタッハと謎の少女・アスタルテと戦闘になった雪菜。絶体絶命の窮地に陥る雪菜だったが、そこへ雪菜の監視対象にして、世界最強の吸血鬼"第四真祖"暁古城が駆けつける！戦闘を止めようとする古城に対し、アスタルテの猛攻が彼を襲い、戦いを強いられてしまう。そんな中、古城の身に宿る十二の眷獣のうちの一体が暴走を開始。その結果、オイスタッハたちを退けた古城だったが、翌日、担任であり、国家攻魔官でもある部月に呼び出され……!?


AS A MATTER OF FACT, AN OLDEN AGE VAMPIRE WAS CAUGHT NEAR THE SCENE.
AS HE WAS INJURED TO THE POINT OF BEING NEAR DEATH, IT WAS REPORTED ANONYMOUSLY.

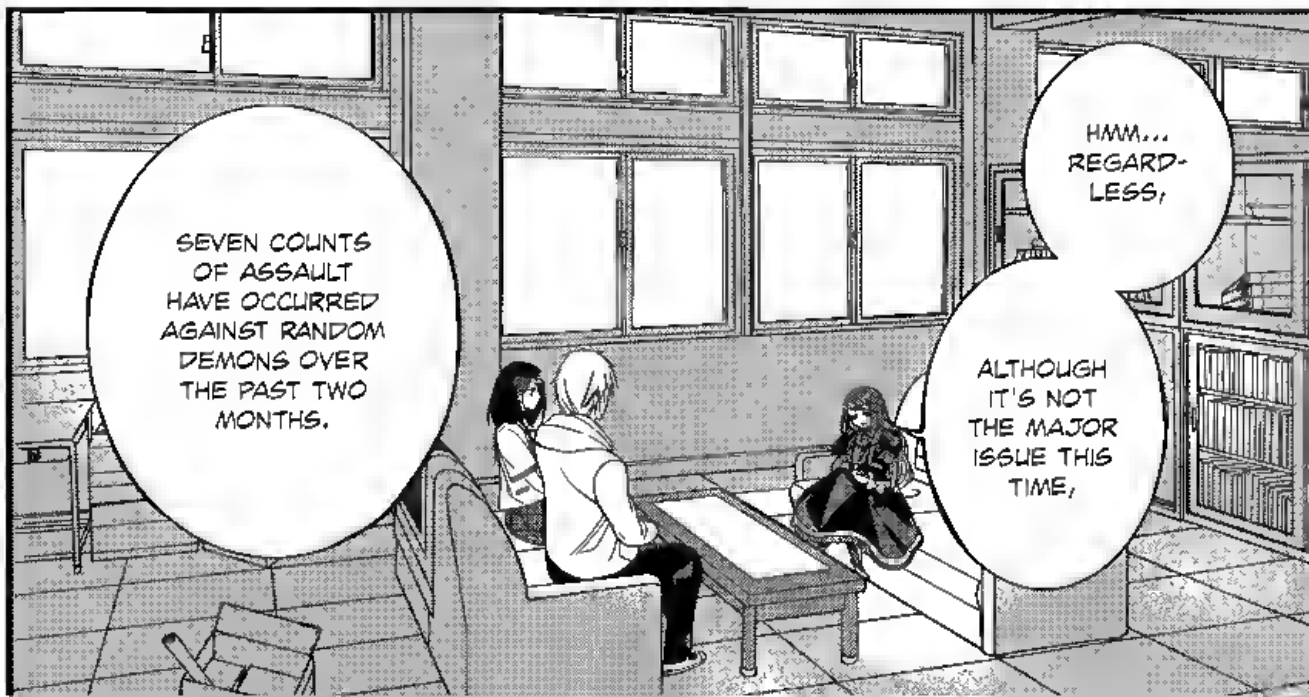
SHORTLY BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.
A KENJUU WAS ALSO SIGHTED IN THE VICINITY.

SO, THE MAN WHO WAS FOUND DYING
WAS CONCLUDED TO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING WITH SOMEONE.

DOES THAT NOT INTEREST EITHER OF YOU?
Y-YEAH, IT'S CRAZY...


NOW, THEN...
WHO COULD IT BE?
EVEN AMONG VAMPIRES, HE HAD GREAT POWER.
WHOMEVER HE WAS FIGHTING MANAGED TO DRIVE AN OLDEN AGE TO A NEAR-DEATH STATE.
I DO THINK HE IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH THE EXPLOSION, THOUGH.

WHO CAN SAY?
WH...

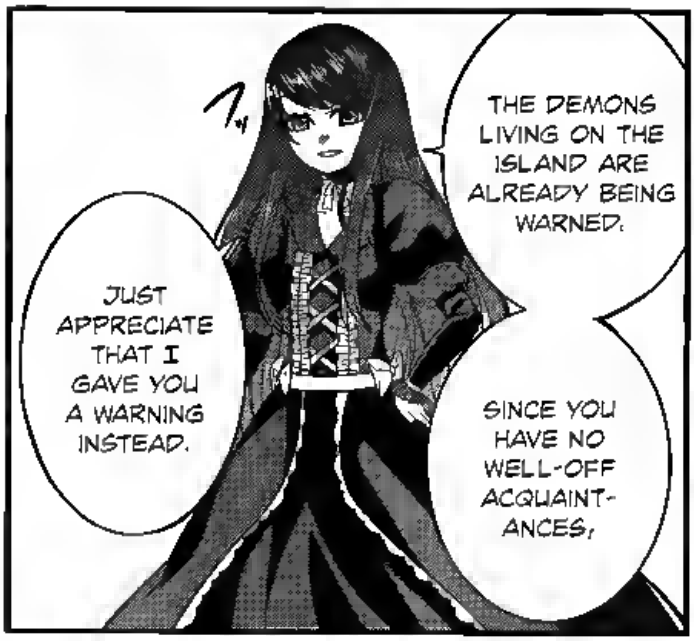

SEVEN COUNTS OF ASSAULT HAVE OCCURRED AGAINST RANDOM DEMONS OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS.
HMM... REGARD-LESS,
ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT THE MAJOR ISSUE THIS TIME,

HUH?
I CALLED IN THE BOTH OF YOU TO WARN YOU.

!!
SO, AKATSUKI, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF YOU BEING ATTACKED AS WELL.

HIS OBJECTIVE IS UNCLEAR,
BUT THE PERPETRATOR WHO HAS BEEN RANDOMLY HUNTING DEMONS IS STILL ON THE LOOSE.

HAS YET TO COME.
THE HOUR WHEN WE BATTLE THE PURE-BLOOD


THE DEMONS LIVING ON THE ISLAND ARE ALREADY BEING WARNED.
SINCE YOU HAVE NO WELL-OFF ACQUAINT-ANCES,
JUST APPRECIATE THAT I GAVE YOU A WARNING INSTEAD.

YEAH... I GOT YA.

!?
OH, ONE MORE THING,
HOLD OFF ON THE NIGHTTIME ACTIVITIES UNTIL THIS IS TAKEN CARE OF, WILL YOU?

THAT WILL BE ALL.
.....

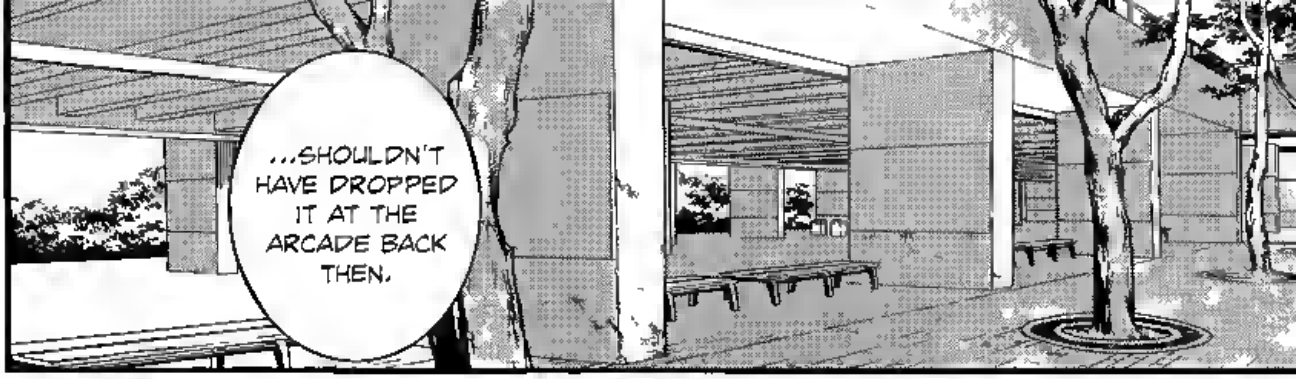
N... NO, EVEN IF YOU CALL IT "NIGHTTIME ACTIVITIES" OR SOMETHING, WE...
WEREN'T ODING THAT KINDA...

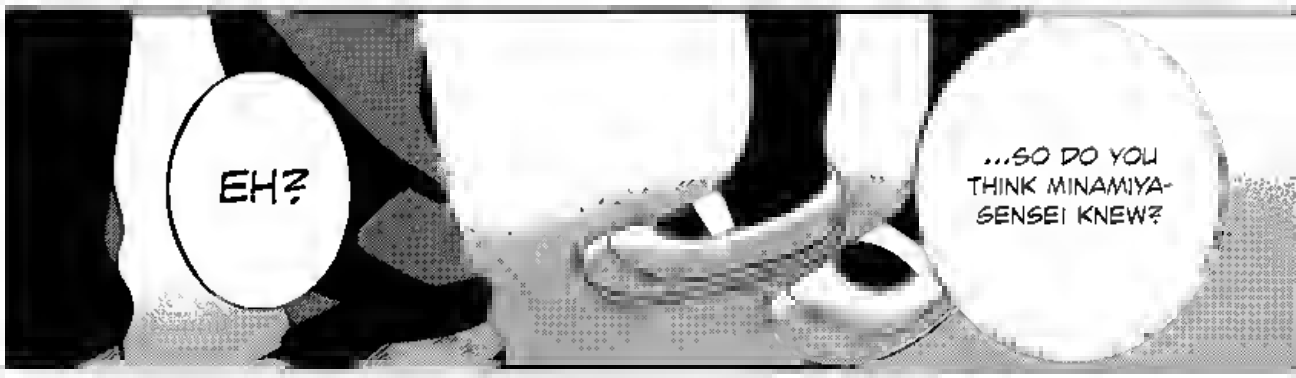
?
CONSIDER YOURSELF WARNED.

AH.

NEKOMA-TAN...

HMPH...
WELL, FINE.


...SHOULDN'T HAVE DROPPED IT AT THE ARCADE BACK THEN.


EH?
...SO DO YOU THINK MINAMIYA-SENSEI KNEW?

IT'S BEEN OCCURRING REPEATEDLY FOR TWO MONTHS, AS WELL.
YOU'D THINK THE POLICE WOULD HAVE THE CRIMINAL'S PROFILE.
!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
I'm aware of that
WELL, SHE CALLED US OUT ON IT...

I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE CULPRIT BEHIND THE EXPLOSION INCIDENT.

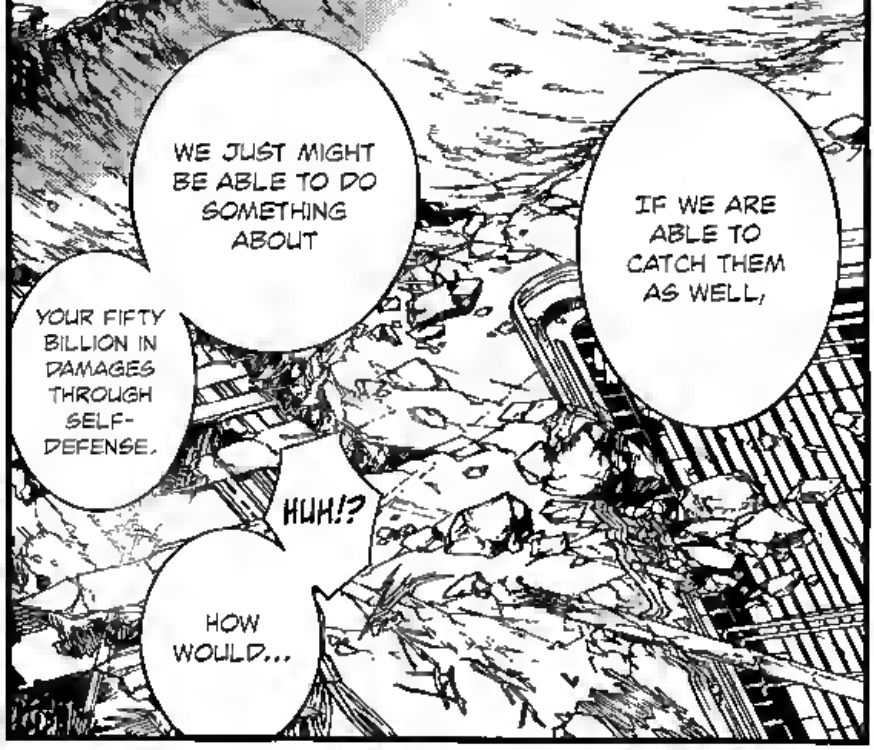
PERHAPS...
BUT IT COULD BE THAT THEY HAVE YET TO GRASP THEIR IDENTITIES.
THE POLICE ALREADY KNEW
ABOUT THAT OLD GUY HUNTING DEMONS... IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?

AT PRESENT, THE ONLY ONES WHO HAVE FOUGHT THEM AND LIVED TO TELL OF IT...
ARE THE TWO OF US...

IDENTITIES?
THE FACT THAT HE IS A LOTHARINGIAN ARMED APOSTLE.

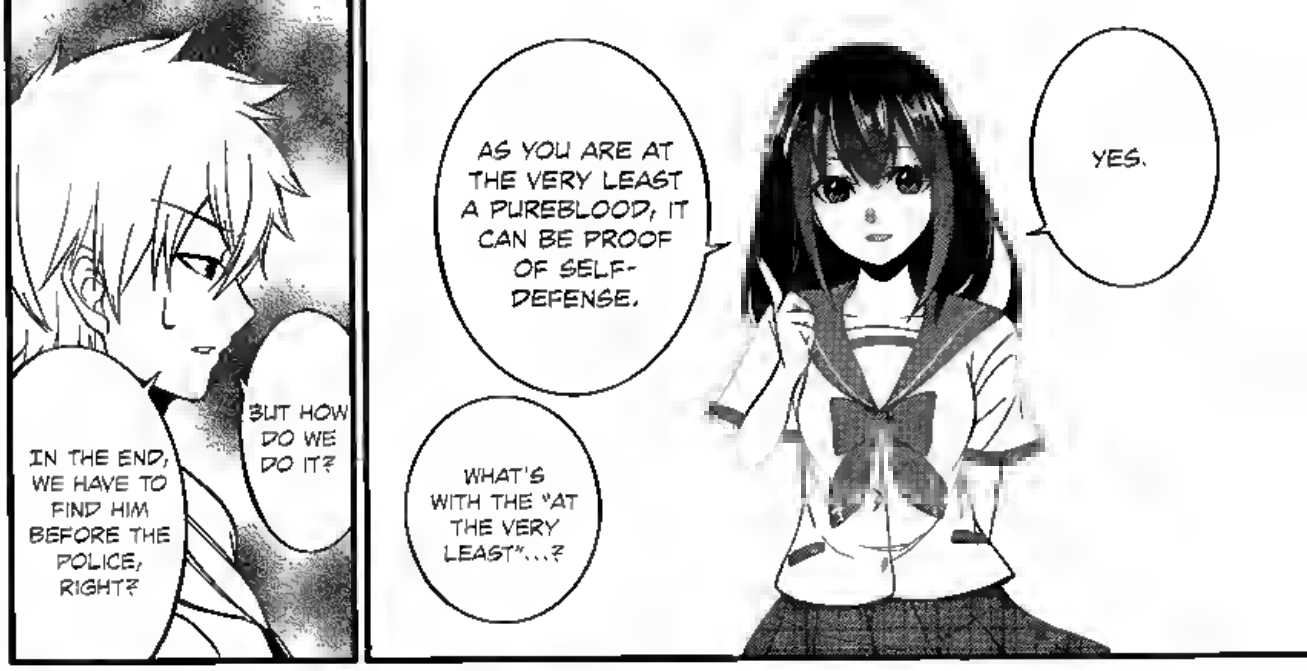
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT EARLIER, THEN?
DESPITE THE WAY SHE LOOKS, NATSUKI-CHAN HOLDS A C-CARD, Y'KNOW?
.....
LOTHARINGIAN ORTHODOXY ASIDE... THE CONCERN IS THAT HE IS A MAN WITH THE RANK OF ARMED APOSTLE.
THAT ITSELF IS A PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL SORCEROUS CRIME. THEREFORE...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS CONTACTS IN THE POLICE, TOO...
I HAVE A C-CARD AS WELL, IF THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
IT FALLS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE LION KING AGENCY.

OH!
DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

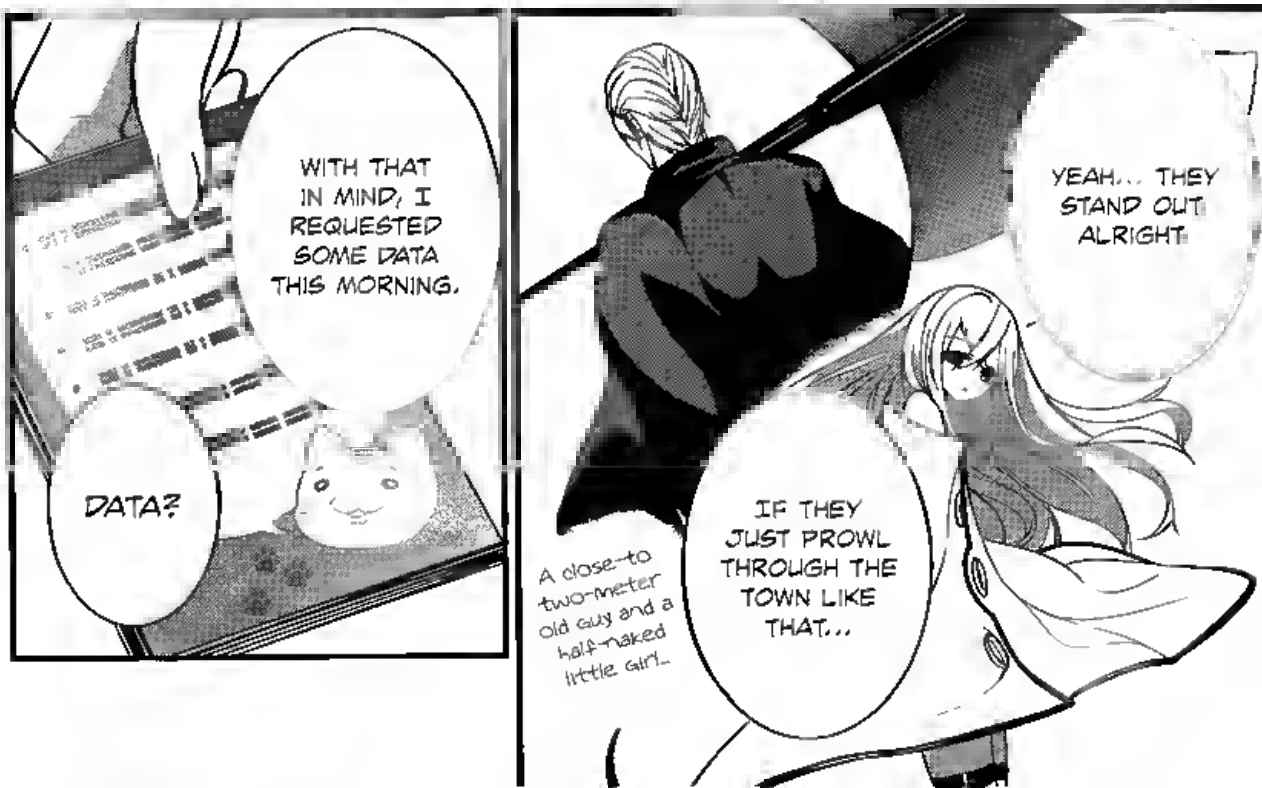

WE JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT
IF WE ARE ABLE TO CATCH THEM AS WELL,
YOUR FIFTY BILLION IN DAMAGES THROUGH SELF-DEFENSE.
HUH!?
HOW WOULD...

SO THE POINT IS THAT IF WE CAN CATCH THE OLD GUY,
WE CAN PROVE HE WAS THE ATTACKER...

HE DEFEATED AN OLDEN AGE VAMPIRE.
HE IS THE ONE RANDOMLY ATTACKING DEMONS.
EVERYONE WILL ADMIT HOW DANGEROUS HE IS...

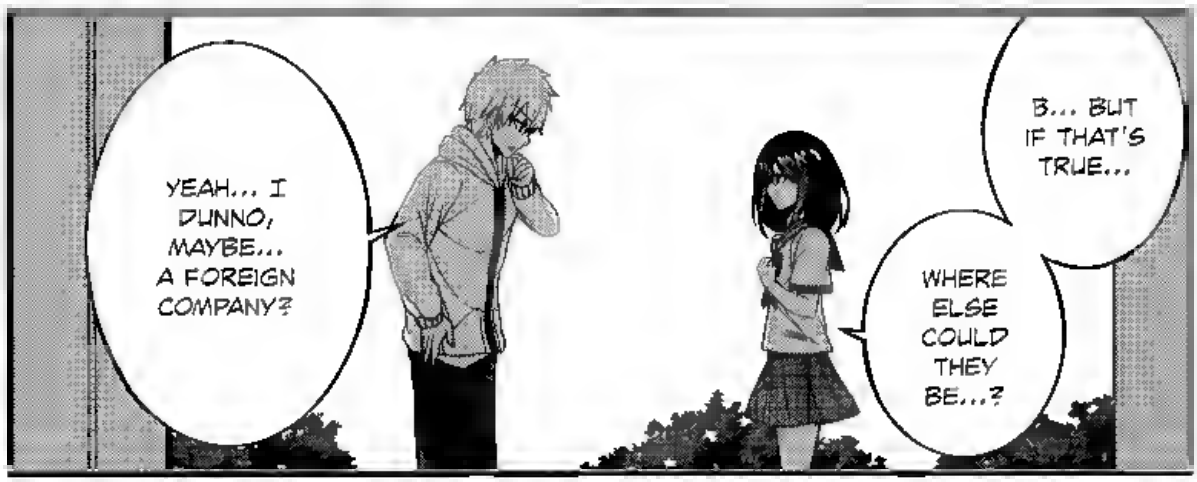

IN THE END, WE HAVE TO FIND HIM BEFORE THE POLICE, RIGHT?
BUT HOW DO WE DO IT?
AS YOU ARE AT THE VERY LEAST A PUREBLOOD, IT CAN BE PROOF OF SELF-DEFENSE.
YES.
WHAT'S WITH THE "AT THE VERY LEAST"...?

AS THEIR APPEARANCES ARE DISTINCTIVE THEY SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THEIR HIDEOUT...
THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THAT THE CULPRIT IS A LOTHARINGIAN ARMED APOSTLE AS WELL
ARE ALSO US.
I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS IMPOS-SIBLE


WITH THAT IN MIND, I REQUESTED SOME DATA THIS MORNING.
DATA?
YEAH... THEY STAND OUT ALRIGHT.
IF THEY JUST PROWL THROUGH THE TOWN LIKE THAT...
A close-to two-meter old guy and a half-naked little girl.

THEY ARE LIKELY HIDING IN ONE OF THESE...
THERE ARE SEVEN MORE BESIDES THAT ONE.
ONE OF THEM IS LOTHARINGIAN.
THIS IS A LIST OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES ON THE ISLAND.
.....
DISTINCTIVE APPEARANCES...
EUROPEAN CHURCH ARMED APOSTLE...
...ARE THEY REALLY?
WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAINING?
YOU SAID THE POLICE MIGHT HAVE A PROFILE, RIGHT?
THEN, THEY'D KNOW THE OLD GUY WORE A PRIEST ROBE. SO...
UMM...
WAS SOMETHING MISTAKEN?
NAH, NOT WHAT I MEAN. IT JUST FEELS A LITTLE TOO SIMPLE...

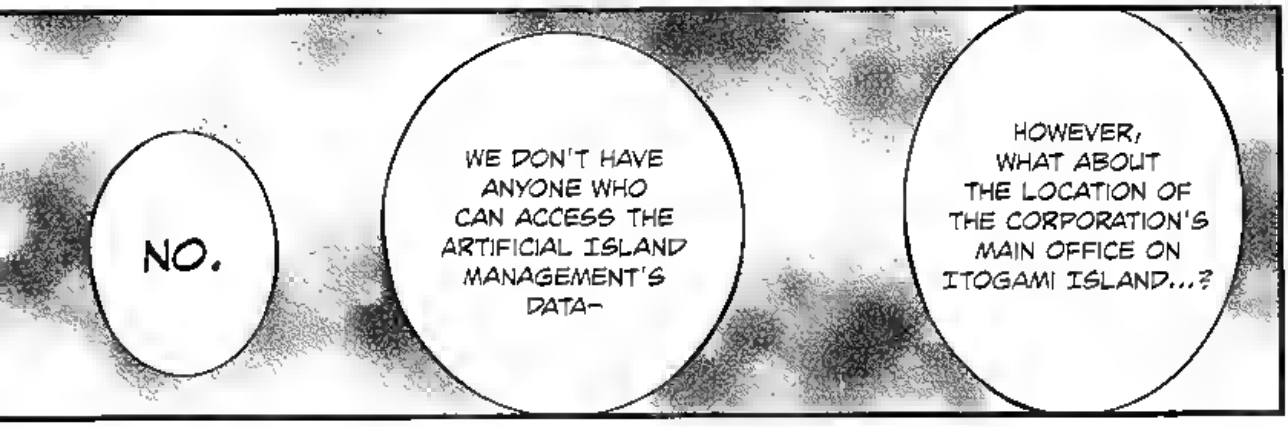
WOULDN'T THE POLICE ALSO CHECK OUT THE EUROPEAN CHURCHES TO START WITH?
OH...


B... BUT IF THAT'S TRUE...
WHERE ELSE COULD THEY BE...?
YEAH... I DUNNO, MAYBE... A FOREIGN COMPANY?

FOCUSING TOO MUCH ON THE TERM "ARME" APOSTLE" WAS A TERRIBLE OVERSIGHT.
SENPAI... AMAZING.
HUH?

...YOU MEAN A COMPANY WITH ITS HEADQUARTERS IN LOTHARINGIA?
TRUE... IT MAKES SENSE THAT A LOTHARINGIAN BEING THERE WOULDN'T BE UNUSUAL.

I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED...
THAT YOU COULD THINK SO LOGICALLY LIKE THAT, SENPAI!
THE HELL!? CAN THAT EVEN COUNT AS A COMPLI-MENT!?

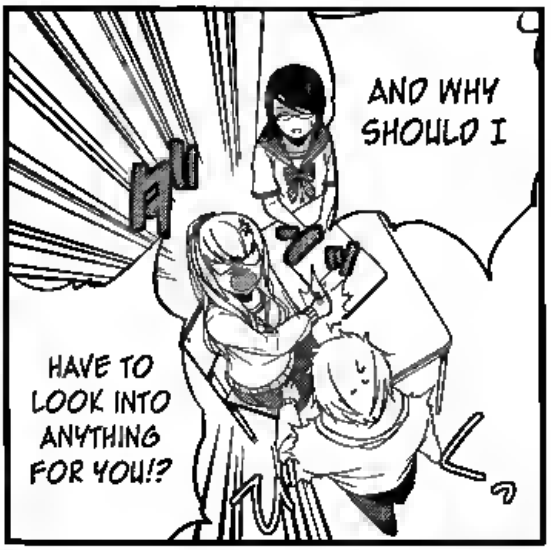

HOWEVER, WHAT ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE CORPORATION'S MAIN OFFICE ON ITOGAMI ISLAND...?
WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE WHO CAN ACCESS THE ARTIFICIAL ISLAND MANAGEMENT'S DATA-
NO.

WE DO.
CRAZY CLOSE BY, TOO...

WHAT?

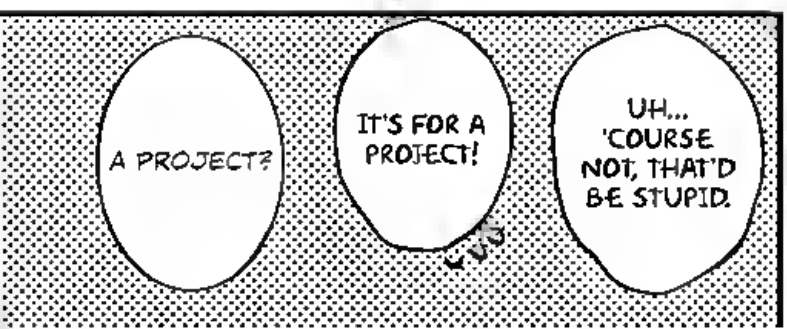
WELL... THAT'S CAUSE... UM...
THERE'S JUST THIS THING I WANT YOU TO LOOK INTO...
YOU JUST RANDOMLY COME UP TO ME AND ASK ME THAT!?

NOW, NOW, ASAGI.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ALL BEEN AKATASKI-KUN TALK SO FAR.
WHAT IF YOU JUST HEAR HIM OUT?
WHA-!?
?


AND WHY SHOULD I
HAVE TO LOOK INTO ANYTHING FOR YOU!?

PLEASE DON'T SAY...
IT'S BECAUSE THAT HIMERAGI GIRL ASKED YOU.
!!

...SO, YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A LOTHARINGIAN COMPANY?
WHY DO YOU NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
UH, WELL... IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL...

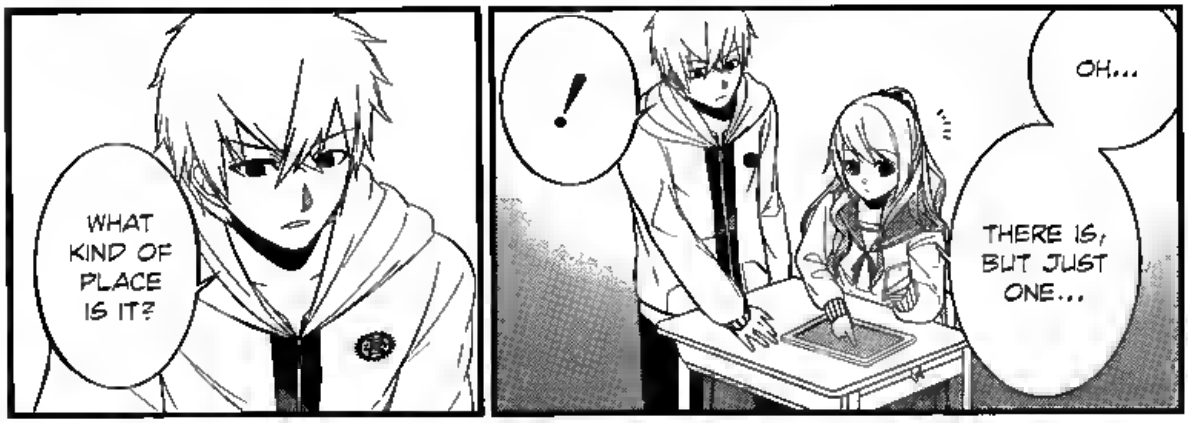

A PROJECT?
IT'S FOR A PROJECT!
UH... 'COURSE NOT, THAT'D BE STUPID.

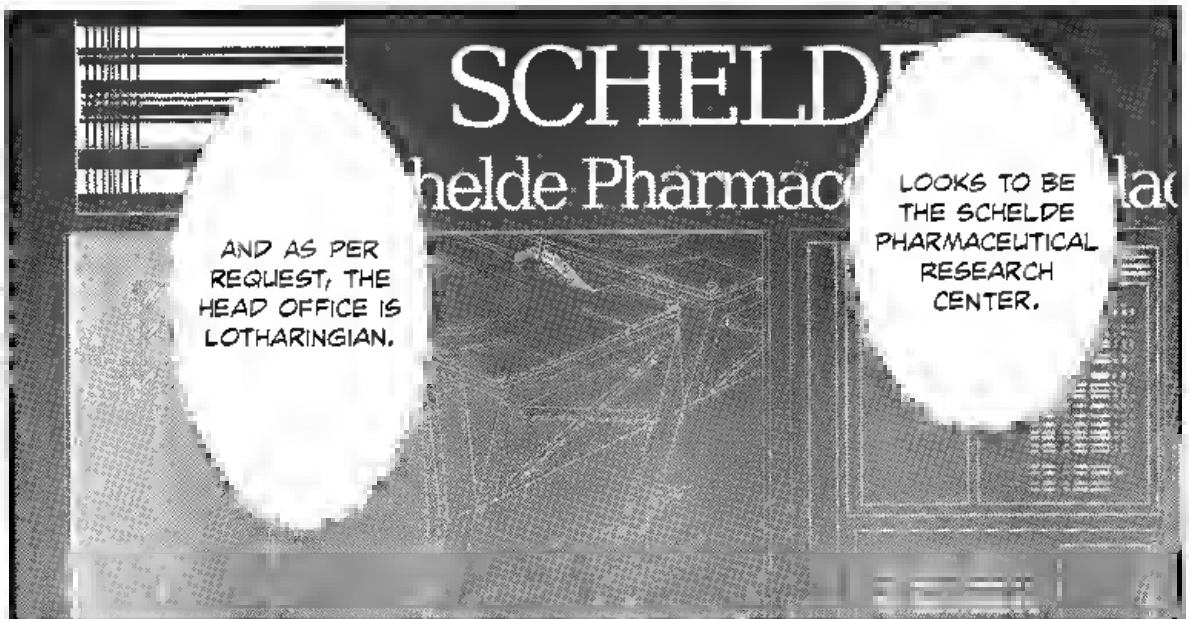
.....
SIGH...
WELL, ALRIGHT.
FINE, FINE, I'LL LOOK INTO IT.
WHAT-EVER...
YOU WILL?
HOW-E-VER,
YOU'LL JOIN ME FOR KEYSTONE GATE'S CAKE BUFFET!
I'LL BE TREATED UNTIL IM SATISFIED! OKAY? CAPICHE!?
Y... YEAH!
THANKS, ASAGI!
...HMPH.

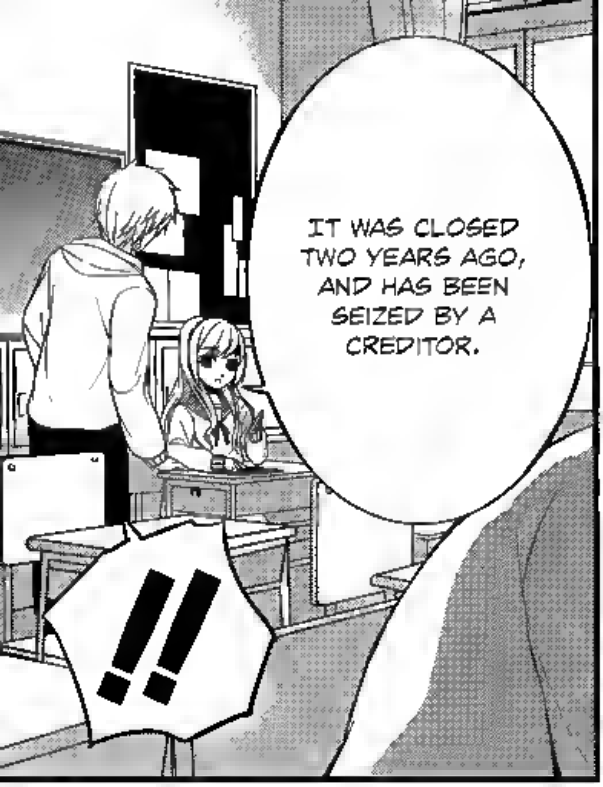
?
I HAVE ACCESS AND ALL...
BUT THERE'S NO COMPANY LIKE THAT.
NONE?
ER... ERM, A LOTHARINGIAN COMPANY, RIGHT?
YEP.
I'LL HEAD BACK TO MY SEAT.
HUH!? HEY...
?

HASN'T THE RECENT APPRECIATION OF THE YEN BEEN MOSTLY WITHDRAWN?
WITH-DRAWN...
...I SEE.
AS FOR TRANSAC-TIONS WITH LOTHARINGIAN COMPANIES...
WHILE THERE ARE SEVERAL COMPANIES THAT HAVE SIGNED AGENCY AGREEMENTS,
ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYEES ARE JAPANESE...

HMM. AS LONG AS IT'S FROM THE PAST FIVE YEARS.
THERE'D BE SOME REMAINING RECORDS...
IF YOU CAN, LOOK FOR CLOSED FIRMS THAT WERE LEFT INTACT.
ASAGI, CAN YOU LOOK INTO THE ALREADY-WITHDRAWN COMPANIES?
HUH...?


WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS IT?
!
OH...
THERE IS, BUT JUST ONE...

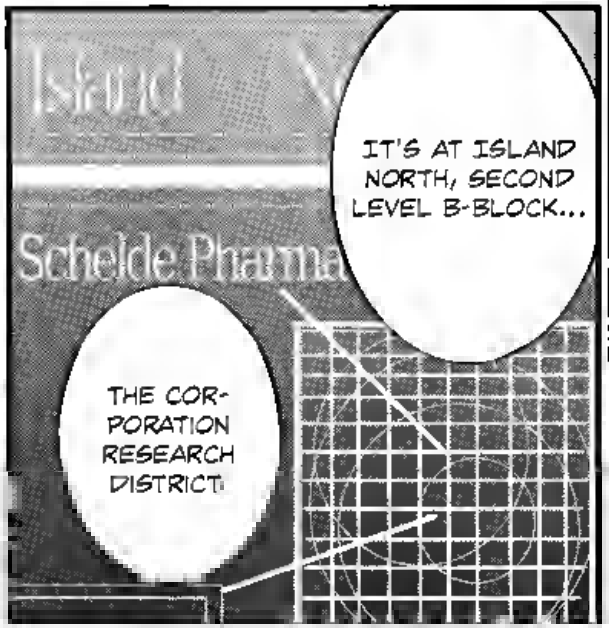

SCHELD
helde Pharmac
AND AS PER REQUEST, THE HEAD OFFICE IS LOTHARINGIAN.
LOOKS TO BE THE SCHELDE PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH CENTER.


IT WAS CLOSED TWO YEARS AGO, AND HAS BEEN SEIZED BY A CREDITOR.
!!

ITS PRIMARY RESEARCH WAS DRUG EXPERIMENTATION USING HOMUNCULI.

UHM...
UH...

WHERE?
WHERE IS IT!?
WAH!?


Island
Schelde Pharma
IT'S AT ISLAND NORTH, SECOND LEVEL B-BLOCK...
THE CORPORATION RESEARCH DISTRICT.

ALRIGHT ...!
.....

H-HEY... WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO!?
SOME URGENT BUSINESS CAME UP, SO I'M GOING OUT.

GOT IT, THANKS!
HUH?

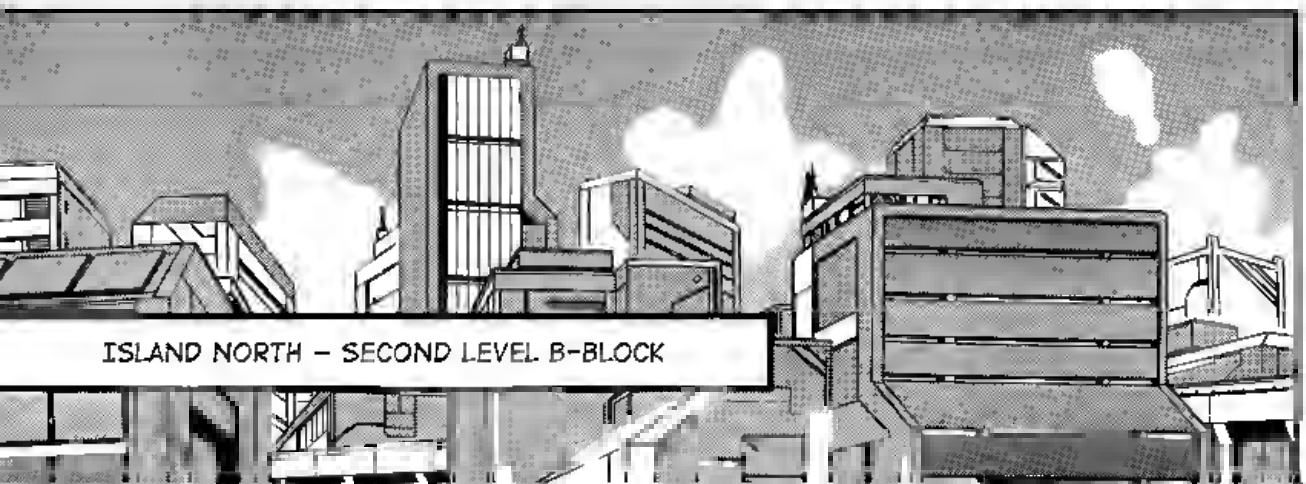
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM...?
HM?

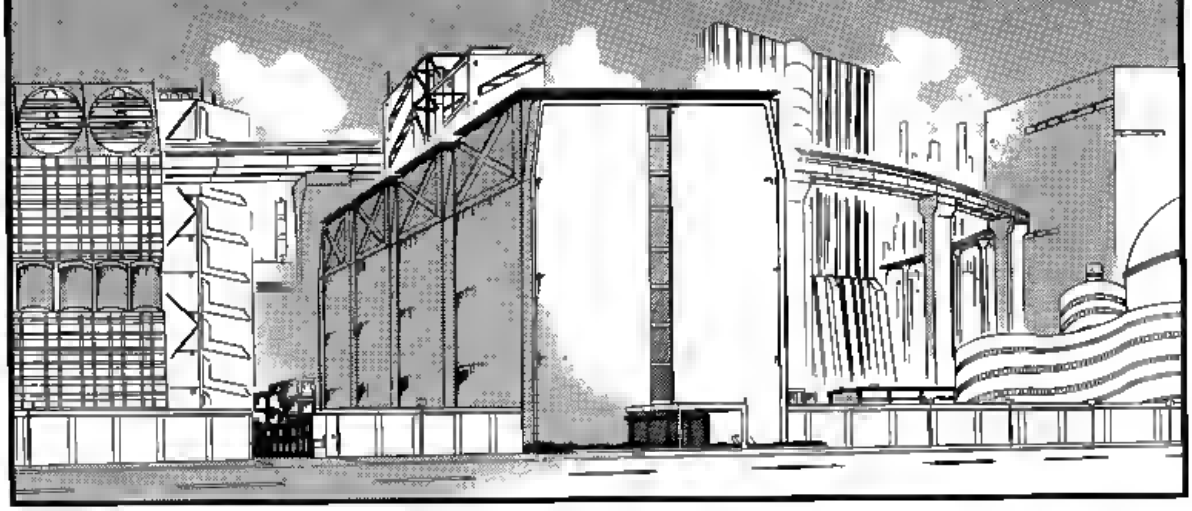
AH, SORRY.
COULD YOU COME UP WITH A GOOD EXCUSE FOR ME?

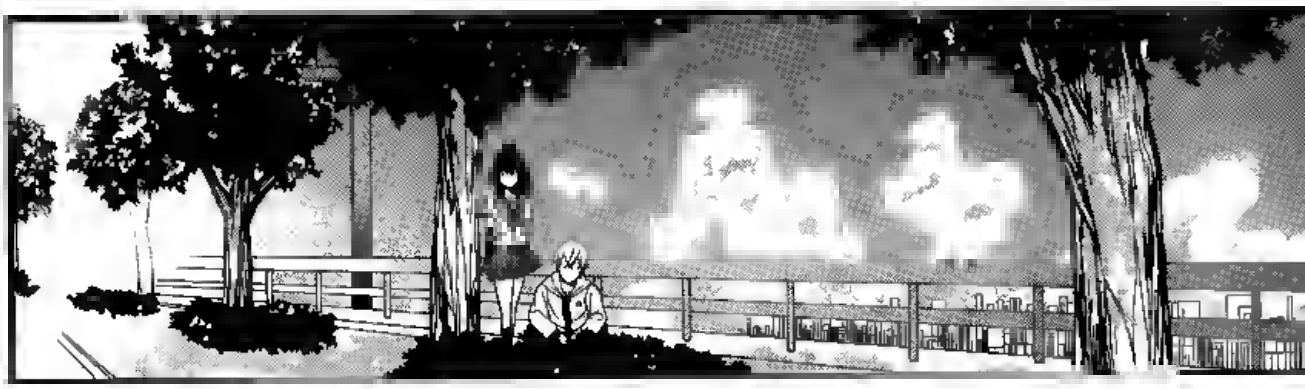
WHAT!? WHAT ABOUT THE AFTERNOON CLASSES?

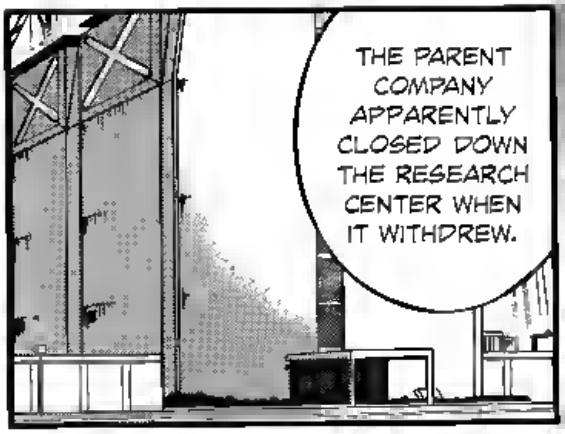
LET'S GO.
!!
YEAH.
DID YOU LEARN WHERE IT WAS?

I KNEW IT WAS ABOUT HER!!
.....
YOU JERK!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!!


ISLAND NORTH – SECOND LEVEL B-BLOCK






THE PARENT COMPANY APPARENTLY CLOSED DOWN THE RESEARCH CENTER WHEN IT WITHDREW.

I WAS TOLD THAT ALL THE BUILDINGS WERE FORE-CLOSED.
THE INSIDE SHOULD BE INTACT.

IS THAT THE PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH CENTER?
PROBABLY...

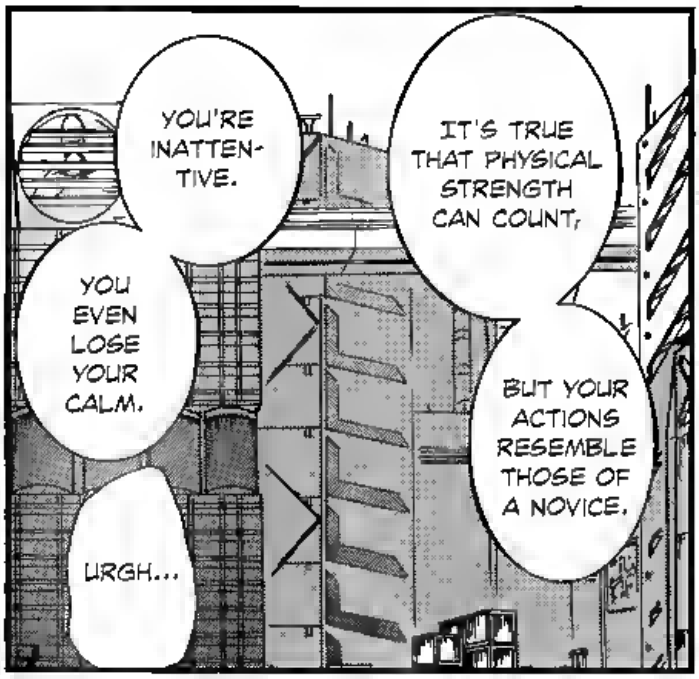
WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE.
.....
IT WAS A HOMUNCULUS LABORATORY, RIGHT...?
SENPAI, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO WAIT HERE, PLEASE.
HUH? HOLD ON NOW, HIMERAGI.
YES, THAT IS THE PLAN.
YOU REALLY WANT TO GO ALONE?
WHY!?
I'LL INVESTI-GATE.

BUT WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE OLD GUY AND COMPANY ARE IN THERE?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIGHT THEM BY YOURSELF?
はぁ...
YOU WOULD ONLY BE A HINDRANCE. PLEASE JUST BEHAVE.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU CAME ALONG?

IN THE FIRST PLACE, WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A VAMPIRE?
YOU SAID YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE USE OF YOUR KENJUU...

OF COURSE.
WHAT WOULD FOLLOWING ME ACCOMPLISH?

DON'T ONLY A HANDFUL OF VAMPIRES EVEN *HAVE* THOSE ABILITIES!?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T FLY.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU CAN BECOME MIST, EITHER.


YOU'RE INATTEN-TIVE.
IT'S TRUE THAT PHYSICAL STRENGTH CAN COUNT,
YOU EVEN LOSE YOUR CALM.
BUT YOUR ACTIONS RESEMBLE THOSE OF A NOVICE.
URGH...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M POWER-LESS...

BUT...
?
WHAT IS IT NOW?

NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND, PLEASE BEHAVE YOURSELF
SO THAT WE TAKE NO UNNEC-ESSARY RISKS.
UNDER-STOOD?

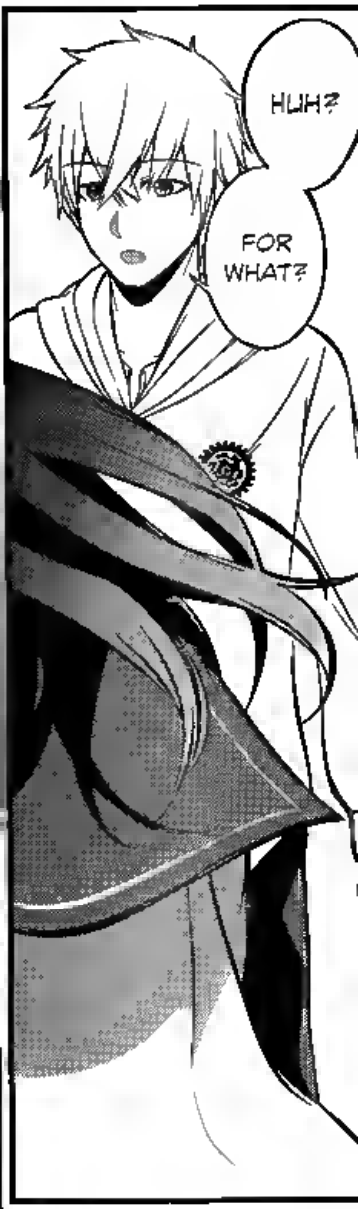
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...!?
I SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, SENPAI!
YOUR KENJUU COULD RUN WILD LIKE YESTER-DAY!

WHILE THAT COULD HAPPEN,
ISN'T FORCING EVERYTHING ON YOURSELF JUST NOT RIGHT?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!

I DO THINK THERE IS SOME TRUTH TO YOUR WORDS AS WELL...
V... VERY WELL.
.....
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T SAY I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT THIS TIME.
THAT'S THE PART THAT'S TRUE...?
YOU COULDN'T BE UNRELATED.
IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT YOU COULD BE THE VICTIM OF A DEMON HUNT.
YES,
PLEASE DO.
YEAH, I'LL HIGHTAIL IT UNTIL IT'S SAFE.
HOWEVER, IF WE ENCOUNTER THE ARMED APOSTLES...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.



WE LOOKED ALL AROUND, BUT IT FIGURES
THIS'D BE THE ONLY ENTRANCE.

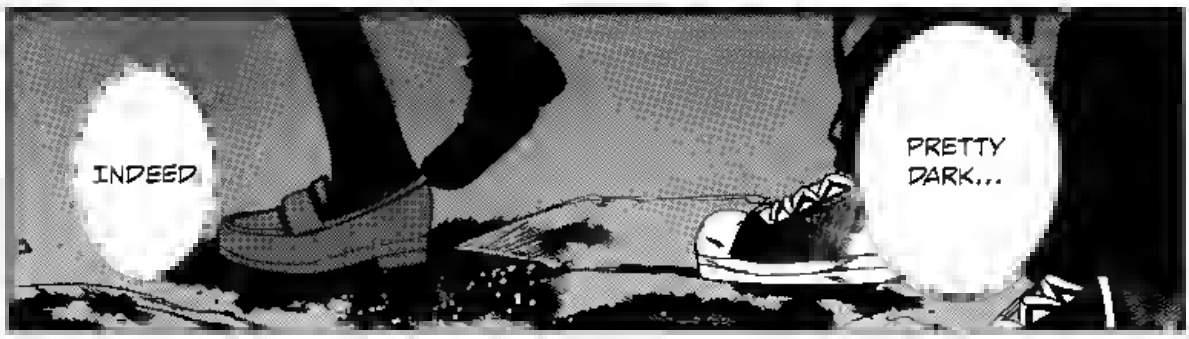
YEEAAH.

WERE THEY NOT HIDING HERE AFTER ALL...?
THERE'S NO SIGNS OF ENTRY.
THE CHAINS ON THE DOOR ARE CONSIDERABLY RUSTED.

NO, WE WERE RIGHT.

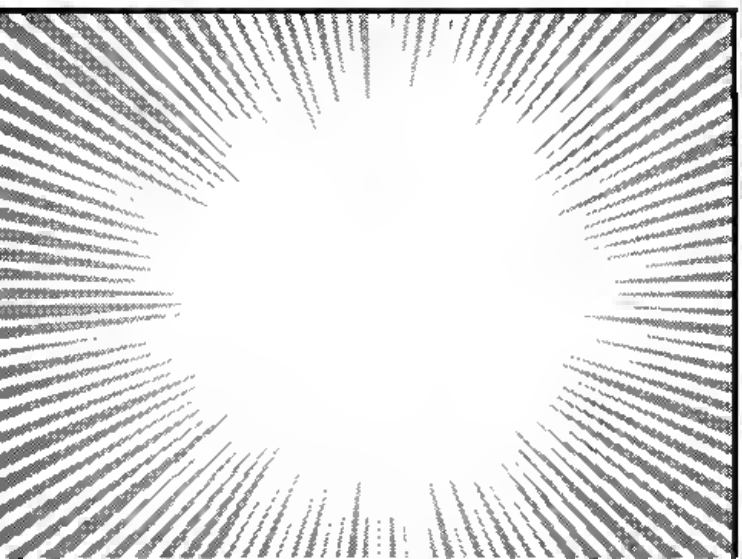
!!

WHA!?
IT'S A BASIC SPELL.
BEING TRICKED BY THIS LEVEL OF MAGIC FLUNKS YOU AS A PUREBLOOD, DOESN'T IT,
SENPAI?

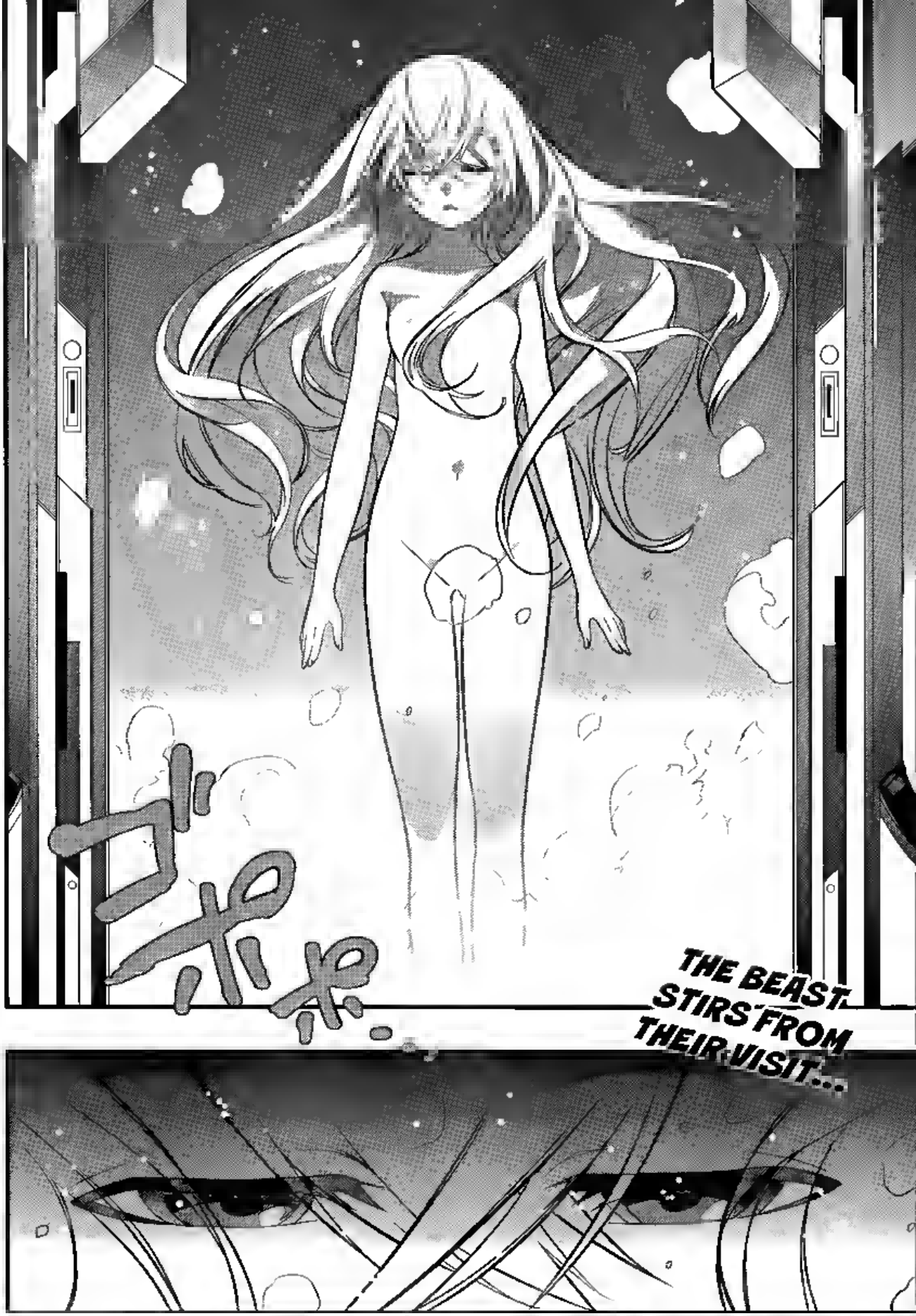

INDEED
PRETTY DARK...

I KNOW...
...THEY MAY BE HOSTILE.
SENPAI, IF IT COMES TO IT...

SENPAI, LOOK...!
LIGHT!?



THIS IS...
SENPAI!
...!!



◀◀◀次号につづく 4月号2月27日(水)発売!!